

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-13 (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A coupling for use in transferring gas in a molten metal device, the coupling including a coupling member that comprises a bore having an opening, the bore for receiving an end of a shaft through the opening, the bore having an end distal the opening and an end proximal the opening, wherein the distal end is tapered and is not threaded, ~~and~~ wherein the proximal end is threaded, and wherein the distal end comprises a passage for transferring gas.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) The coupling of claim 15 wherein the threads are ~~course~~ coarse threads.

17. (Currently Amended) The coupling of claim 14 that further includes a second coupling member in communication with the passage ~~and a passage between the coupling member and the second coupling member, the passage for transferring gas~~.

18. (Original) The coupling of claim 14 wherein the coupling is comprised of stainless steel.

19. (Original) The coupling of claim 14 wherein the surface of the distal end of the bore is smooth.

20. (Original) The coupling of claim 14 that further includes a counterweight.

21. (Currently Amended) A rotary degasser including:
(a) a motor;

(b) a motor shaft having a first end and a second end, the first end connected to the motor;

(c) a coupling having a first coupling member and a second coupling member, the first coupling member connected to the second end of the motor shaft, the second coupling member comprising a bore having an opening, the bore for receiving an end of a rotor shaft through the opening, the bore having an end distal the opening and an end proximal the opening, the distal end being tapered and not threaded, the proximal end being threaded, the distal end comprising a passage for transferring gas, the first coupling member in communication with the passage;

(d) a rotor shaft having:

(i) a first end and a second end, the first end being received in and connected to the second coupling member; and

(ii) a passage through the rotor shaft, the passage including an opening in the first end of the rotor shaft and an opening in the second end of the rotor shaft; and

(e) a rotor connected to the second end of the rotor shaft.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Original) The rotary degasser of claim 21 wherein the proximal end of the second coupling member is threaded.

24. (Currently Amended) The rotary degasser of claim 23 wherein the threads are ~~course~~ coarse threads.

25. (Original) The rotary degasser of claim 21 wherein the coupling is comprised of stainless steel.

26. (Original) The rotary degasser of claim 21 wherein the distal end of the bore has a smooth surface.

27-37 (Cancelled).

38. (Previously Presented) The coupling of claim 14 wherein the coupling further comprises one or more apertures configured to receive a tool for disconnecting the shaft from the coupling.

39. (Previously Presented) The rotary degasser of claim 21 wherein the coupling further comprises one or more apertures configured to receive a tool for disconnecting the shaft from the coupling.